

REMARKS**A. Status of the Claims and Explanation of the Amendments**

Prior to the submission of this paper, claims 1-23 were pending in this application. Of these claims, claims 1-15, 18, and 21 were allowed. Claims 16, 17, 19, 20, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,452,661 to Komatsuda (“Komatsuda”). Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Komatsuda.

In this paper, Applicant has rewritten allowed claims 1, 18, and 21 to include substantially the same claim elements as allowed claims 3 and 4. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the cancellation of claims 3 and 4 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Moreover, Applicant has rewritten previously rejected claims 16 and 17 to depend from allowed claim 1, and has requested the cancellation of claims 19, 20, 22, and 23 without prejudice or disclaimer.

As all rejected claims have either been cancelled or rewritten to depend from allowed claims, Applicant respectfully asserts that this case is in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requested reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, and 23.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

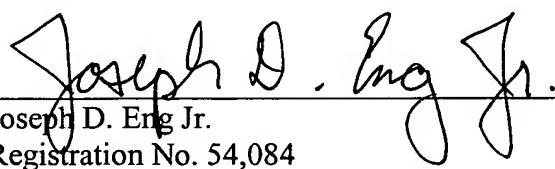
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5269. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5269. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: June 28, 2005

By:


Joseph D. Eng Jr.
Registration No. 54,084

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101
(212) 415-8700 Telephone
(212) 415-8701 Facsimile